GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:776
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
HEALTH CARE FACILITIES TO CHILDREN
Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that more than 50 percent children under the age of 5 years in the country live without basic healthcare facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the government in ensuring basic healthcare facilities to all the children?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)&(b): As per the latest available National Family Health Survey 2005-06, among the children under the age of 5 years with symptoms of Acute Respiratory Infections and diarrhea, 69.0% and 59.8% respectively were taken to a health care provider. Coverage of the tuberculosis vaccine(BCG), the third dose of immunization for Diptheria, Pertussis and Tetanus (DPT), for the third dose of polio vaccine, and the measles vaccine are 78.1%, 55.3%, 78.2% and 58.8% respectively.

(c): Steps are taken by the Government in ensuring basic healthcare facilities to all the children are implementation of the Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) strategy, which adopts a holistic approach to the management of the commonest causes of neonatal and childhood mortality − sepsis, acute respiratory infections, diarrhea, measles and malaria, all compounded by malnutrition. IMNCI shall be implemented throughout the country in a phased manner. In addition, thrust is being given to ensure institutional deliveries and train health personnel on essential newborn care so that skilled attendance at birth is available and all newborns receive specialized care. Efforts to deliver new born care, both facility based as well as home based, are being made. Micronutrient supplementation with Vitamin A, Iron Folic Acid and Zinc, Infant and Young Child Nutrition are being stressed. Immunization is one of the major thrust areas of the ongoing Reproductive & Child Health Programme. The National Rural Health Mission, launched in April, 2005 for a period of 7 years(2005-2012) is an overarching initiative with a holistic approach which provides multiple strategic additionalities, like provision for health infrastructure up gradation and a health care worker for every 1000 population, among others and has envisaged reduction in Infant Mortality and Neonatal Mortality as one of the prime goals to be achieved.